

# ANTI-LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER VIOLENCE IN NEW YORK - 2002

A Report of the  
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project



*The production of this report was coordinated by the*  
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## NEW YORK

New York reported 477 anti-LGBT incidents in 2002, down from 2001's total of 551 (-13%). It also reported 13% decrease in the number of victims (564 v. 647), and offenders decreased significantly (858 v. 988). Anecdotal evidence from New York seems to indicate that at least two factors are responsible for such a uniform and across-the-board decrease in the area: a possible 'real' decrease in anti-LGBT incidents tied to the significant decrease in criminal activity since September 11, 2001, in part as a result of much more widespread and visible police presence, and a general reluctance on the part of victims to report incidents - particularly non-violent ones since September 11, 2002

Nevertheless, despite the decline in incidents, victims and offenders total number of assaults in New York actually rose slightly (+3%, from 234 in 2001 to 241 in 2002). While simple assault declined negligibly (from 152 to 150, -1%), assaults involving weapons rose 11% to 91, and in fact comprised 19% of all incidents. In 2001, 42% of all incidents involved assault. By 2002, the proportion of incidents involving assault had risen to 51%.

The relative stasis in the number of offenders per incident (1.79 in 2001 v. 1.80 in 2002) suggests that the decline in the number of "right of passage" or "gang-style" incidents, typically committed by groups of young people noted over the last two years, accompanied by a larger number of incidents committed by more solidly anti-LGBTB perpetrators of all ages may have leveled off.

With respect to other categories of offenses, other increases were found in reports of illegal eviction (500%), discrimination (+38%), vandalism (+108%), and robbery (+9%). The number of rapes and sexual assaults remained constant at 36. There were four anti-LGBT murders recorded in New York during 2002, up from three in 2001. Additionally, the number of police raids rose 75% (from 1 to 6). This was more than likely a result of some 'normalization' of police activity during the period, as opposed to 2001 when many law enforcement resources were dispatched to post-September 11 activities).

Though the level of assault rose in 2002, there were mixed outcomes in looking at victim injury rates. The number of victims sustaining no injuries at all fell 16%, and now only represent 69% of victims, down from 71% in 2001. However, the number of victims experiencing

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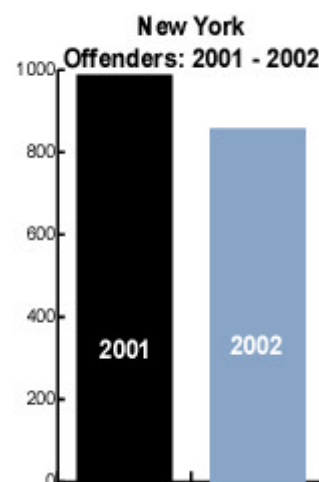
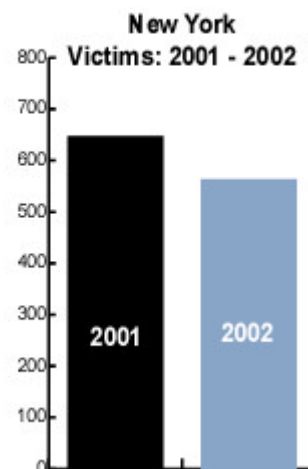
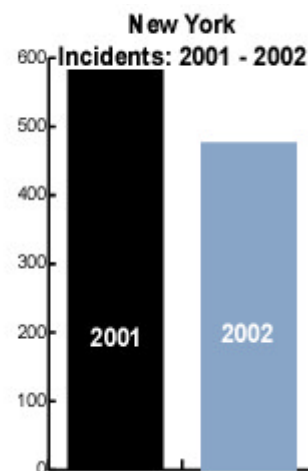
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minor injuries rose 3%, and now represent 20% of all victims.

Finally, while the number of those receiving serious injuries fell 7%, the proportion of victims receiving such injuries remained at 9% of all victims. In sum, 29% of all victims now suffer some level of injury, as opposed to 26% in 2001. Further, the proportion of victims needing some level of hospital care is now 81%, up from 76% in 2001.

The number of incidents involving some element of HIV/AIDS-related bias decreased for the first time (8% overall, from 90 in 2001 to 83 in 2002), but they still comprise 16% of all incidents tracked in the region. Similarly, though the number of reported incidents involving anti-transgender bias decreased 13% in 2002, anti-transgender bias still represented 13% of all incidents.

In terms of the location of incidents charted in New York, while almost all sites catalogued in this report showed decreases, incidents occurring in police precincts or jails rose 100%, from 3 in 2001 to 6 in 2002, though they still only comprise 1% of all incidents. There was also a 129% increase in incidents occurring in or around LGBT bars or nightclubs, and a 14% increase in the number of those occurring on public transportation. The number of incidents occurring at schools or on college campuses remained the same (6).

The number of incidents occurring at schools and on campuses, coupled with that of incidents occurring on public transportation is significant in that New York experienced a 6% increase in the number of victims aged 22 and under, and a 64% increase in victims under 18, and incidents occurring on public transportation can be a better indication (than school-based incidents) of the experience of youthful victims in New York.

Other victim data from New York tended to reflect the overall decreases seen in the region. One exception however, was a 133% rise (from 6 to 14) in the number of organizational victims. This is primarily reflective of harassing calls and letters received by one national LGBT organization with offices in New York. Another exception was the 200% increase (from 2 to 6) in Arab and Middle Eastern victims. As noted in the main narrative of this report, this rise reflects connections made with Arab and Middle Eastern communities and organizations after September 11, 2001 and maintained throughout this reporting period. Generally, 42% of victims in New

York were white. Twenty-six percent were Latina/o; 18% were African-American, and 1% were Asian or Pacific Islanders.

In looking at the offenders charted by AVP in 2002, as with victims there were very few substantive changes in the data from 2001. Eighty percent of known offenders were male; 14% were female. Offenders were most likely to be between the ages of 23 and 44 (319, or 37% of all known offenders). African-Americans, whites and Latinas/os remained the largest groups of offenders (28%, 26% and 17%, respectively). Though the number of Arab or Middle Eastern offenders rose 53%, and are now 3% of all offenders. This is a likely by-product of the increase in reporting from Arab and Middle Eastern victims.

With respect to victim interaction with police, there was an 11% decrease in the number of victims who chose to report incidents to the police. However, there was a 56% increase in the number of complaints to police that were refused. The proportion of refused complaints rose 9%, from 13% in 2001 to 22% in 2002. Additionally, there was a 167% increase in the number of cases for which a bias classification was refused. Positively, though there was a 33% increase in the number of victims describing police attitude as 'indifferent,' and a 33% increase in the number of victims describing law enforcement response as 'courteous,' there was a 24% decrease in reports of police being verbally abusive and no change in the number of police who were physically abusive (2).